

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-11 ISO-00 IO-13 HA-05 CIAE-00  
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15  
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-12 MCT-01  
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-----049451 021253Z /64

O 021140Z JUN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7253  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
DIA WASHDC  
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM  
AMEMBASSY LAGOS  
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE  
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY  
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI  
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

C O N F I D E N T I A L NDJAMENA 2135

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MOPS, PINS, CD  
SUBJECT: RENEWED FIGHTING IN CENTRAL CHAD

SUMMARY: THERE HAS BEEN RENEWED FIGHTING IN DJEDAA  
AREA NORTH OF ATI FOR THE LAST TWO DAYS, WHICH HAS  
CULMINATED IN MAJOR SET-BACK FOR REBELS. IN MEANTIME,  
REBEL MILITARY THREAT IN WEST AND EAST, AND POSSIBILITIES  
OF CIVIL DISTURBANCES IN SOUTHERN CHAD CONTINUE.

1. FIGHTING AT DJEDAA WAS EVIDENTLY PRECIPITATED  
WHEN REBEL BUILDUP THERE REACHED 300 OR 400 MEN AND  
CHADIANS AND FRENCH FELT THEY COULD NO LONGER SIT  
QUIETLY AND AWAIT A STRIKE BY SUCH A LARGE FORCE.  
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LATTER THEREFORE MOVED A COMBINED FRANCO/CHADIAN  
COLUMN NORTH TOWARDS DJEDAA. IT SO HAPPENED THAT,  
AT THE SAME TIME, A FRENCH ARTILLERY BATTERY EN ROUTE  
FROM NDJAMENA TO ABECHÉ BY ROAD WAS IN ATI AND WAS  
DIVERTED TO ACCOMPANY COLUMN. AS COLUMN APPROACHED  
DJEDAA, TWO JAGUARS WERE SENT AHEAD ON RECONNAISSANCE  
MISSION. FIRST JAGUAR, INSTEAD OF BUZZING

DIRECTLY OVER TOWN, MADE A SLOW TURN AND WAS HIT BY EITHER SAM 7 OR GROUND FIRE. PLANE ON FIRE TURNED BACK TOWARD ATI BUT PILOT HAD TO EJECT BEFORE BEING ABLE TO LAND, AND PLANE EXPLODED IN THE AIR. PILOT WAS PICKED UP BY HELICOPTER AND IS IN EXCELLENT CONDITION. GROUND COLUMN THEN PROCEEDED TO DJEDDA WHERE TWO DAYS OF FIGHTING ENSUED. THANKS TO PRESENCE OF FRENCH ARTILLERY, ENGAGEMENT TURNED OUT TO BE A MILITARY SUCCESS. APPROXIMATELY 100 REBELS WERE KILLED WHILE ONLY TWO FRENCH AND THREE CHADIANS WERE WOUNDED. JAGUARS WERE USED TO BOMB OASES OUTSIDE OF DJEDAA BUT NOT IN THE TOWN ITSELF AND, ACCORDINGLY, THERE WERE FEW IF ANY CIVILIAN CASUALTIES. A GREAT DEAL OF REBEL EQUIPMENT, INCLUDING 12 SAM 7'S, A TRUCKLOAD OF RUMANIAN UNIFORMS, AND MANY SMALL ARMS, WERE CAPTURED.

2. WHILE THIS VICTORY SHOULD LESSEN THE THREAT IN CENTRAL CHAD, FRENCH AMBASSADOR BELIEVES REBELS STILL INTEND TO ATTACK BOTH IN THE WEST AND THE EAST SOME TIME BEFORE JUNE 7.

3. ELSEWHERE IN CHAD, RUMBLINGS OF POSSIBLE PROBLEMS CONTINUE. MOUNDOU AREA HAS BEEN THE SCENE OF AN EXCHANGE OF PROPAGANDA THREATS BETWEEN GROUPS OPPOSING THE GOVERNMENT AND COUNTER GROUPS THAT

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ARE CALLING FOR VIOLENT ACTION AGAINST THE LOCAL NORTHERN POPULATION AS SUBVERSIVES. RUMORS OF FROLINAT INFILTRATION INTO NIDMANEA AREA CONTINUE AND APPARENTLY TWO RIVAL PRO-FROLINAT ORGANIZATIONS HAVE BEEN FORMED IN NDJAMENA. ONE OF THESE IS NOW TAKING CREDIT FOR THE RECENT KILLINGS OF THREE POLICEMEN AND IS THREATENING FURTHER TERRORIST ACTIONS AGAINST FRENCH. FRENCH AMBASSADOR BELIEVES THIS IS MORE PROPAGANDA BOMBAST THAN REAL THREAT. WE WILL TRY AND ASCERTAIN FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE ORGANIZATIONS AND REPORT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

BRADFORD

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## Message Attributes

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